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# 03/14/1985 - Continued Improvement In Quality Of Academic Programs

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

# news

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March 14, 1985

Local/Area

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University can expect improvement in its financial support level along with continued enrollment stability, President Stan Rives predicted Thursday.

Addressing faculty and staff in his annual "State of the University Report," Rives also called for "continued improvement in the quality of academic programs."

A major portion of Rives' address dealt with 10 recommendations from the favorable North Central Association re-accreditation report on Eastern.

He said the NCA team was right in seeing needs for greater cultural and ethnic diversity, an elimination of underfunding by the state, a larger increase in staff-faculty salaries, and more support for faculty research.

He also urged a State of Illinois commitment to provide new classroom and office space for the College of Business. "Nothing has been more frustrating to me in the nearly two years I have served as President than the unwillingness of the Board of Higher Education staff to approve a construction project to meet the business college's need," he said.

Rives pointed out that Eastern already had achieved NCA recommendations in the areas of development and affirmative action. A \$5 million, five year development program called Tenth Decade Campaign has been started by the EIU Foundation. The NCA recommendations for a woman or minority vice president and for a career development program have already been accomplished, said Rives.

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State of Univ.

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Rives said he planned to institute a better follow-up on Eastern's graduates and a re-organization of the Council on University Planning and Budgeting, as proposed by the NCA. He left to the Faculty Senate whether or not to seek means to strengthen itself.

Eastern's budget calling for a 9.9 percent increase in state funding is, according to the EIU president, now before the state legislature. "The FY86 budget recommendation is a good one--better than we have fared in recent years--and would allow us to make some progress toward elimination of our relative underfunding," Rives said.

Included in the EIU budget package for next academic year are funds to increase faculty salaries by eight percent, a four percent general price increase, a seven percent increase for library books plus adequate funds to cover utility cost increases. Almost an additional \$1 million would also be provided for program improvements.

Various achievements in the six EIU academic colleges were also recognized by Rives in his address.